

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) An assay method which includes:

bringing a putative modulator into contact with VDU1 and an ubiquitinated VDU1 substrate;

determining the ability of the putative modulator to modulate the stabilisation and/or state of ubiquitination of the substrate by VDU1;

bringing the putative modulator into contact with a test system comprising VDU1 and HIF- α ;

determining the effect of the putative modulator on the stability and/or state of ubiquitination of HIF- α .

6. (Currently Amended) An assay method according to claim [[1]] 5 in which the test system further comprises VHL.

7. (Currently Amended) An assay method according to claim [[1]]5, wherein the test system is a cell.

8. (Original) An assay method according to claim 7, wherein the cell is under hypoxic conditions.

9. (Original) An assay method according to claim 7, wherein the cell is under normoxic conditions.

10. (Previously Presented) An assay method according to claim 7, wherein the effect of the putative modulator on HIF- α stability is determined by the activity of a HIF-responsive reporter gene.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An assay method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~5, wherein the putative modulator is brought into contact with the test system under conditions where VDU1 is capable of stabilising HIF- α , in the absence of the modulator.

Claims 14-19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Cancelled)

Claims 21-36. (Canceled)